(b) if so, whether the same is functioning well;

(c) if not, the steps being taken to update it;

(d) whether there is any plan to introduce a new rail line; and

(e) if so, whether any survey has been made and by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There are several railway lines in the District.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, gauge conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda and Surendranagar-Botad lines is in progress and when this work completed, direct linkages to the national BG network from all the stations on these lines will be available.

Transportation of relief measures to drought hit states By trains

1531. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of grass sent through rail wagons to drought hit States, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of water supplied to these States, State-wise;

(c) the number of passenger and goods trains cancelled while sending the grass and water; and

(d) the revenue loss incurred by the Railways for giving the relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The quantity

of grass and water transported by rail to drought hit States from 1st January to 15th July, 2000 is as under:

Name of State	Quantity of Grass (in Tonnes)	Quantity of Water (in terms of Tonnes)
Gujarat	2,60,419	3,81,900
Rajasthan	1,28,528	53,013
Andhra Pradesh	9,031	Nil
Orissa	Nil	5,653

(c) Nil.

(d) The amount of freight waived by the Railways for transporting the materials amounts to Rs. 14.31 Crore.

Pondicherry Vilupuram Rail Line

1532. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Pondicherry Vilupuram rail line would be converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) for how long the conversion is pending; and

(c) how many kilometre of conversion has been done so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The target date is not yet fixed.

(b) to (c) The conversion work was included in the budget 1998-99 and after obtaining the requisite clearances, the work is now being started. No length on the project has yet been converted. However, on the entire Indian Railways, 8702 km of gauge conversion has been completed so far under Project Uni-gague.